

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 CTME-00 DEAE-00 AID-05 CG-00
DOTE-00 OES-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /042 W
-----069073 200835Z /11
R 190002Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9607

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 06363

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - PRECISELY LOCATING ILLICIT
CROPS

REF: MEXICO 4104

1. SUBSEQUENT TO REFTEL, EMBASSY OFFICER ATTENDED MEETING IN THE DEPARTMENT DURING WHICH U.S. COAST GUARD OFFICERS ESTIMATED COST OF LORAN-C SYSTEM AT \$5 MILLION OR GREATER, LEADING EMBASSY TO DEEMPHASIZE ELECTRONIC SOLUTION TO PROBLEM NOTED REFTEL. DURING AN APRIL 11 BRIEFING IN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONFERENCE ROOM BY NASA OFFICIAL FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS GOM AGENCIES ON ADVANCED ILLICIT CROP DETECTION SYSTEM, HOWEVER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DETENAL (GOM MAPPING AGENCY) NOTED THAT SYSTEM AS CURRENTLY ENVISIONED DOES NOT RESOLVE PROBLEM OF SERIOUS HUMAN ERROR THROUGH MANUAL TRANSFER OF DETECTED FIELDS TO MAPS, THE SAME PROBLEM DISCUSSED IN REFTEL.

2. BY COINCIDENCE, ON APRIL 12, EMBASSY RECEIVED LETTER FROM OFFSHORE NAVIGATION INC (ONI) OF HARAHAN, LOUISIANA, PROPOSING A FEASIBILITY TEST OF LORAN-C USING A TRANSMITTER AND TECHNICIAN TO BE PROVIDED BY THE COMPANY AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$20,000. DEPENDING ON TEST RESULTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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ONI IS PREPARED TO OFFER A THREE-STATION LORAN-C SYSTEM USING ITS "ACCUFIX" TRANSMITTERS (ESTIMATED SYSTEM COST \$500,000) OR 2-HCG "MEGAPULSE" TRANSMITTERS (ESTIMATED SYSTEM COST \$800,000). AIRCRAFT RECEIVERS TO USE THE SYSTEM WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY \$8,500 EACH, MEANING THAT 20 AIRCRAFT COULD BE EQUIPPED TO USE EVEN THE MOST EXPENSIVE SYSTEM (IF TEST PROVES IT IS NEEDED) FOR LESS

THAN \$1 MILLION.

3. COPIES OF ONI PROPOSAL BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT
(S/NM FOR LINNEMANN).

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY
TO NEGOTIATE WITH GOM AND ONI FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY SUG-
GESTED BY ONI. IF AGREEMENT REACHED, WE WOULD TRANSFER
SUFFICIENT FUNDS FROM ADVANCED ILLICIT CROP DETECTION
SYSTEM AGREEMENT NOW PENDING (MEXICO 6094) TO GOM,
PERMITTING GOM TO SIGN CONTRACT FOR STUDY. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL, MAPPING, COMPUTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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